



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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42ND CD UPDATE: GOP AND DEMOS GOING ALL OUT IN SEPT. 21 SPECIAL TO REPLACE GEORGE BROWN.

Editor's note: Campaign activity has increased dramatically in the closing days of this Sept. 21st special primary in San Bernardino Co.'s 42nd CD, where a field of 9 candidates seek to replace the late U.S. Rep. George Brown(D-Colton). This is an important special, but shouldn't be viewed as a forecast of what will happen nationally in 2000. The 42nd CD has a 51% Demo registration and has been in Demo hands for years, thus a win by the GOP in the Nov. 16th runoff would be considered an upset. Here is our update & analysis...

...Although it might appear that GOP candidate Elia Pirozzi is taking it easy while Demos Marta Macias Brown (George's widow), State Sen. Joe Baca and Fontana Mayor David Eshleman slug it out in the primary, that's not the case. Pirozzi may be the GOP frontrunner, but Hal Styles Jr. refused to drop out when the San Berdu Co. GOP Cnt. Cmt. endorsed Pirozzi, and Rob Guzman's name will still appear on the ballot even though he dropped out and is backing Pirozzi...

...Most sources predict Pirozzi will finish in first place. A first place win by Pirozzi is critical for 2 reasons: 1) it would show that he can come back from his 1998 defeat at the hands of George Brown; and 2) it would force the NRCC to get more involved. If either Brown or Baca finish first or if the primary were *very* close, Pirozzi can go to the showers – early, because no one will sink resources into a losing cause...

...All the candidates, as well as organized labor, have extensive absentee voter programs. Pirozzi's effort targets not only at his GOP base, but at Demos & independents too. As of noon 9/15 there were 17,262 requests for absentee ballots, with 7,340 returned...

...On the Demo side, most sources agree that Eshleman

is out of the running, but he's going to pull votes from both Brown and Baca. Our sources aren't sure who gets hurt by Eshleman – perhaps both. In the battle between Brown and Baca, it's a case of who has the best media and GOTV operation. Our sources rate the mail as even, but Brown has radio and cable. But on the ground, Baca has an advantage because of the solid backing from organized labor. That's very important...

...On issues, both are close on key topics, but they part company over guns. Brown has hit Baca several times for the senator's votes against a ban on cheap handguns and assault weapons. But Baca has come right back in a mailer with Gov. Gray Davis on the cover, noting that he was a co-author of AB 295 to regulate gun shows. Baca is generally considered a pro-gun Demo and has taken NRA money. But in the 42nd CD, which is a heavy blue collar/moderate area, Baca's gun stance may not hurt him. We'll see. Bottomline: many Calpeek sources believe this is Baca's race to win or lose. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD: GIVE GOV. DAVIS AND CALIF. LEGISLATURE AN "A-" FOR 1999...

Editor's note: The first half of the 1999-2000 Calif. Legislative session is history and Calpeek's report card gives both Gov. Gray Davis(D) and the Calif. State Legislature a "A-." Here's our analysis, with a special spotlight on Full Metal Jacket – bills dealing with GUNS...

...When Davis took office back in January he said he would govern from the *center* and that's exactly what he did. And looking at the recent Field Poll, Davis' approval rating is a very substantial 61%. Some feel Davis started the session rather slowly, but by the end really had command of the situation. Part of Davis' success can be attributed to Mike Gotch, the former Demo Assemblyman who took over midway as Legis-

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lative Affairs Secretary after Rick Simpson resigned...

... The high marks for both Davis and the Legislature included educational reforms; a balanced 1999-2000 budget passed on time with another significant car tax reduction; and HMO reforms. The tribal gaming compacts recently signed was another win for both Davis and the Legislature...

... But if you're looking for one specific area where there has been lots of movement, as well as media coverage, it's **GUNS** – a very hot political topic any-time, but especially so in 2000. In fact, Dateline NBC was just in Sacto taping material about guns (SB 29) for an upcoming show. In terms of *Winners & Losers*, gun-control advocates (Handgun Control, Inc.) are the folks giving the *high-5s* in Sacto, while the NRA and Gun Owners of Calif. are the folks with *long faces*...

... Here's what was passed and signed: SB 23 (Perata) to revise Calif.'s old assault weapons law; SB 15 (Polanco) to safety test handguns; SB 130 (Hayden and Scott) safety/trigger locks for handguns; AB 295 (Corbett and Wright) to add restrictions for gun shows; and AB 202 (Knox) – the 1 handgun per month bill. These were the high profile bills. A lower profile bill which passed was AB 491 (Scott) to make it a potential felony to carry a loaded and/or concealed handgun that is not registered. AB 491 was a key bill for police chiefs and sheriffs, but it would not have won approval without SB 29 (Peace, Burton, Perata). SB 29 is a bill requiring the Calif. DOJ to up-grade its registration system for tracking handguns. In fact, because all these gun bills impact the CA DOJ, AG Bill Lockyer is going to be the guy in the spotlight – for better or worse...

... Of all the bills passed, pro and anti gun sources agree that SB 130 and SB 15 are key bills. The trigger locks, if properly used in the home, should cut the number of accidental shootings – especially kids. As for safety testing handguns, gun sources are not thrilled with SB 15, but say that it at least gives them some guidelines...

... So what's left in terms of gun bills for the second half of the session? There may have to be some clean up bills (technical stuff), but State Sen. Don Perata(D) and Assemblyman Mike Honda(D) are looking at *handgun acquisition licensing* bills. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE.

Calpeek's new Millennium edition of the Directory of Campaign Consultants is now on sale to subscribers for \$25. Non-subscribers have to become subscribers before they can buy the Directory. *Checks only*; no invoicing; and no credit cards...

CAMPAIGN '99: S.F. MAYOR DEBATES MORE LIKE MUD WRESTLING, BUT VOTERS & MEDIA LOVE IT.

Editor's note: GOP consultant Allan Hoffenblum's great quote about *debates* (*the only people who really care about debates are candidates behind in the polls and the League of Women Voters*) doesn't apply in **San Francisco**. Here's our update & analysis...

... The news media in S.F. wanted a colorful and noisy Nov. 2nd election for mayor and it looks like Mayor Willie Brown and rivals Clint Reilly and former Mayor Frank Jordan are delivering the goods – if you judge from the first 2 debates, which have been well covered by the news media. In the first debate in late August, it was the tag team of *Jordan & Reilly* pounding away on Willie. Reilly: "Our emperor mayor has no clothes at all." Jordan: "Your problems will not be solved by dictatorial, short-sighted backroom decisions." Brown just stood there and took it – reciting his accomplishments. Reilly packed the debate with his supporters...

... Debate #2 on Sept. 8th was different. Brown's team wasn't going to be sucker punched a second time. So when the charges began to fly, Willie's team of 400 supporters took up for him. Lots of hissing & booing aimed at Jordan & Reilly. Mud wrestling. Brown's best line aimed at Reilly: "He's an unprincipled political consultant who is using millions paid him by the insurance industry to buy the mayor's office." There's another debate Oct. 5th sponsored by the S.F. Chamber, but Reilly won't be there...

... What's most interesting is that for the past several months Reilly has been spending a ton of money (perhaps **\$2 million** by now) on mail, tv & cable. And up until very recently, there was no polling data being leaked to the media. That's now changed. In their Sept. 10th column, the SF Chron's Matier & Ross ran a Reilly poll of 600 voters: Brown **37%**, Reilly **22%**, Jordan **18%** and **23%** undecided. The poll looks about right – Reilly, our sources suspect, is probably not that high just yet, but it's within the margin of error...

... FYI: S.F. has a contribution law. But the law is

now all but gone. The latest blow: U.S. Judge Claudia Wilken recently ruled that the city's law on contribution limits doesn't apply to *independent expenditure committees*. And what's interesting here is that the S.F. Co. Demo Central Cmt. is raising a ton of IE money to help Brown, who was endorsed by the party last year. Estimates are the SF Demo Party probably has more than \$600,000 in the bank (\$404,000 on 6/30/99). PS. Our sources say Brown begins his cable tv ad campaign Sept. 16. It's a maximum buy. Stay tuned...

GOV. DAVIS AND TRIBES SIGN GAMING COMPACTS.

Editor's note: Calif. Gov. Gray Davis and representatives from 59 Calif. Indian tribes signed a agreement on Sept. 10th to permit slot machines and Vegas type card games at Indian gaming casinos. On Sept. 14th the Agua Caliente tribe from Palm Springs signed the agreement too. Here's a brief update and analysis...

...This "compact," in the form of SCA 11 authored by Senate Pres. John Burton(D-S.F.), will go before voters on the March 2000 ballot for ratification. The compact will include a cap of 2,000 slots for tribes who already have casinos. The agreement also calls for environmental protection programs; background checks for gaming employees, vendors & investors; and worker health and safety programs. The compacts with each tribe will be **void** IF a side agreement dealing with labor rights is not provided by Oct. 13th...

...Several weeks ago **Calpeek** indicated that giving tribes a "monopoly" on Vegas-styled gaming might well violate federal Indian gaming laws. Some sources disputed this. Guess what? The compact Davis signed with the Agua Caliente tribe provides that the agreement can be renegotiated IF a court finds the monopoly granted in the compact is illegal...

...The deal reached with the Agua Caliente tribe was especially important because they had planned to run their own initiative on the March 2000 ballot. With the signing of the compact, the tribe has dropped its gaming proposal. But just because SCA 11 won't be competing with another gaming measure doesn't mean there won't be opposition. There could well be another attempt by Nevada gaming interests to stop SCA 11, thus we would have another mega-bucks campaign called *Son of Prop. 5*...

...So what happened to the horse racing industry and the non-Indian card clubs? The horse racing industry will have a wait for the 2nd half of the session to see what happens with account wagering via telephone and the internet. As for card clubs, the CA Legislature approved AB 1409 which *may* solve the problem of Asian poker games – declared illegal as house banked games in the recent CA Supreme Court decision. Stay tuned...

CALIF. INITIATIVE UPDATE: NEW POLLING DATA.

Editor's note: All of the key initiatives that were circulating prior to Aug. 23rd – the deadline for turning in petitions to qualify for the March 7, 2000 ballot – have now been turned in. Next week: analysis and polling data on *Let the Voters Decide* initiative (aka the GOP reapportionment reform plan being sponsored by U.S. Rep. Bill Thomas and People's Advocate director Ted Costa)...

☒ ***Protection of Marriage Initiative*** – A subtle change as the word defense has been replaced by the word protection. Regardless, the YES side is all smiles because of 2 new polls – both showing a win for this initiative if the election were held now. The measure says Calif. shall only recognize a marriage between a man and woman – or no same sex marriage. One survey by the Public Policy Inst. of Calif. (8/26 to 9/3 among 989 likely voters) shows YES **63%** vs. **34%** against, with 3% undecided. A newer Field Poll shows YES winning **57%** to **39%**, with 4% undecided. FYI: the YES website is www.protectmarriage.net...

☒ ***Repeal of Tobacco Surtax*** – Backers of an initiative to repeal Prop. 10, narrowly approved by voters in 1998, turned in 705,000 signatures. Ned Roscoe of *Cigarettes Cheaper* spent \$500,000 during the qualification drive. According to a new Field Poll, if the election were held now, this repeal would be rejected by a margin of **59%** NO to **36%** YES, with 5% undecided. Funny thing is that by hiking the cigarette tax by 50 cents per pack, sales statewide have dropped 29%, according to a Sept. 14 story in the L.A. Times. The YES on 10 folks are thrilled that fewer people are smoking, but the downside is that tobacco tax revenues are down too. According to the story by Jenifer Warren, smokers are buying cigarettes via the internet or going out of state where prices are cheaper. Another L.A. Times story, this one by Nicholas Riccardi, says

that after 10 months – with \$750 million in the pipeline ready for spending on kids, not a dime has been spent because of bureaucratic redtape and delays...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Sept. 21	42 nd CD special election.
Sept. 24	Women For celebrates 35 th anniversary. Noon luncheon at L.A.'s Riviera Country Club.
Sept. 24-26	Calif. Republican Party's biannual convention at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel.
Sept. 29	So. Calif. chpt. of Americans for Democratic Action(ADA) to honor Warren Beatty at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Controller Connell on Thin Ice** – Almost overlooked by the Capitol Press Corps was AB 858 by Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl(D-West L.A.) to oust Demo Controller Kathleen Connell from the Franchise Tax Board and replace her with Demo Treasurer Phil Angelides. The bill failed on a 38-30 vote. Why was Kuehl on the warpath against Connell? Kuehl says Connell opposed legislation to give the FTB greater responsibility over child-support collections – a very hot issue...

■ **CRP Convention in Anaheim** – Rumors continue to swirl about a potential confrontation between CRP Chair John McGraw and some of his political enemies at the upcoming CA Republican Party convention at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel, Sept. 24-26, but sources are being tight lipped. GOP presidential hopefuls Steve Forbes, Elizabeth Dole, Alan Keyes and Gary Bauer are supposed to be at the CRP gathering...

■ **Is it Time to Pull the NFL Plug?** – While it's difficult to fault L.A. Councilman Mark Ridely-Thomas for his effort to bring an NFL expansion team to play in the *New Coliseum*, is it now time for the City of L.A. to give the NFL a *digital salute*? If you took a poll, our sources bet the answer would be YES. There's a growing feeling the NFL is now just using L.A. as a wedge to get a **bigger franchise fee** from Houston's Bob McNair. And the decision to announce an expansion NFL team on Sept. 15th was delayed again, to no one's surprise. The new date to mark on your calendar: Oct. 5-6 in Atlanta...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: former Assemblyman John Moreno died Aug. 19 in NY. He was one of the first Latinos elected to the CA Legislature in this century. He began his political career as a member of the Santa Fe Spring city council in 1957 and was elected to the Assembly in 1962. He was 72. R.I.P...

● Robert B. Gunnison has resigned from the S.F. Chronicle's Capitol press beat to become asst. dean of the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism...

● Gov. Davis has appointed Keith K. Umemoto as asst. secretary for legislative affairs and Alfonso Salazar as asst. secretary for economic development for the CA Trade & Commerce Agency...

● Steve Sugerman has been appointed director of the P/A group at Fleishman-Hillard in L.A. New member of the P/A group is Christina Simon, who previously worked for L.A. Councilman Ridley-Thomas...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **AIDS Project L.A.** seeks Government Affairs Assistant with 2+ years high level administrative experience. Excellent computer and organizational skills. Up to low \$30K; full benefits. Resume to: APLA, HR, 1313 N. Vine, L.A., CA 90028; FAX: (323)993-1496. EOE.

● **Public Policy Institute** of Calif. seeks Public Affairs Associate. Assist manager with media, government relations, outreach efforts, draft releases, organize events. BA plus 2 years exp. in PR or government service, superior written and computer skills. Fax (415)291-4401. www.ppic.org.

● A **Project Specialist** position is available at a well-known Los Angeles community relations firm. Candidates must have exceptional writing skills, political savvy and experience working with clients or constituents. Please fax a resume and cover letter to Consensus Planning Group at (213)625-2410.

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